

Message Text

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SUBJ: CIVAIR: 8TH ICAO NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN STATIONS

(NAOS) CONFERENCE, GENEVA, FEB 18-22

1. 13 CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS ATTENDING SUBJECT CONFERENCE ELECTED S.L. TIERNEY OF IRELAND AS CHAIRMAN AND G. CRONE-LEVIN OF DENMARK AS VICE-CHAIRMAN.

2. WHEN COMMITTEE OF WHOLE COMMENCED CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 1, BELGIUM SAID IT WAS UNWILLING TO PAY ITS ADDITIONAL POUNDS 2,000 ASSESSMENT FOR 21ST NAOS YEAR, RESULTING FROM SWITZERLAND'S WITHDRAWAL FROM AGREEMENT, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. SWITZERLAND STATED THAT US/CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM AGREEMENT MEANT IT NO LONGER MADE SENSE. ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT BINAGHI OUTLINED FOUR OPTIONS FOR SOLVING CASH CONTRIBUTION PROBLEM FOR 21ST YEAR: (1) BELGIUM COULD DECIDE TO PAY THE POUNDS 2,000; (2) ALL PARTIES INVOLVED COULD AGREE TO PAY A SHARE OF THE POUNDS 2,000; (3) THE OPERATING STATES COULD SHARE THE POUNDS 2,000 DEFICIT; (4) THE POUNDS 2,000 COULD BE TAKEN FROM THE GREEK PAYMENT

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STILL DUE FOR THE 20TH YEAR. DENMARK SUGGESTED A

FIFTH POSSIBILITY, I.E., THAT SWITZERLAND MAKE AN EX GRATIA CONTRIBUTION FOR THE SAME AMOUNT AS IT WOULD HAVE PAID HAD IT REMAINED A PARTY TO THE AGREEMENT. SWITZERLAND SAID IT WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THE DANISH PROPOSAL.

3. RE AGENDA ITEM 2 AND ITS POSITION THAT US OWES POUNDS 443,000 FOR DEFICIT OPERATION DURING 20TH YEAR, BELGIUM STATED MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AGAIN INVOLVED AND THAT ALL PARTIES MUST ABIDE BY AGREEMENT. FRG ALSO SPOKE AGAINST AN OPERATING STATE WHICH STOPS OPERATING BEFORE ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE AGREEMENT IS EFFECTIVE. US EXPLAINED ITS CHANGE FROM TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAWAL IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ASKED BELGIUM AND FRG TO WHAT ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT THEY WERE REFERRING WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A CASH CONTRIBUTION FROM THE US.

4. AT OPENING OF SECOND MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF WHOLE, NORWAY PROPOSED CHANGE IN CASH DISTRIBUTION FOR 21ST YEAR IN VIEW OF DEVALUATION OF POUND STERLING AND WAS ASKED TO PREPARE A PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT. UK MADE HELPFUL STATEMENT, MENTIONING US GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO NAOS PROGRAM OVER YEARS AND SAYING THAT OPERATION OF US VESSELS NOT RELATED TO FINANCING OF EUROPEAN VESSELS. US SHIFT TO SATELLITES EARLIER THAN PLANNED WAS NOT A LOGICAL REASON FOR SOME STATES SAYING THEY WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE FINANCING OF THE EUROPEAN VESSELS. ALL WHO REMAINED IN SCHEME HAD AGREED TO SEE IT THROUGH TO ITS FINALITY EXCEPT A FOURTEENTH STATE. BELGIUM DELEGATE THEN SAID HE WAS READY TO CONTACT HIS AUTHORITIES FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON 21ST YEAR.

5. IRELAND THOUGHT COMMON FUND RATHER INADEQUATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR VALUABLE US NETWORK. DENMARK AGREED AND MENTIONED US COLLATERAL SERVICES - SATELLITES, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES OVER GREENLAND, ETC., SAYING IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO ASK FOR ANY COMPENSATION FOR UNTIMELY WITHDRAWAL OF US STATIONS. WHEN BELGIUM SAID OPERATION OF US VESSELS DIFFERENT THAN EUROPEAN VESSELS, US EXPLAINED UNCLASSIFIED

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ITS OVER CONTRIBUTION TO NAOS PROGRAM USING EUROPEAN COST CEILING FOR ITS VESSELS AND SAID IT WOULD CIRCULATE WORKING PAPER WITH THESE FIGURES. FRANCE SAID AGREEMENT IMPLIED US HAD CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS. ICAO SECRETARIAT SAID OBLIGATION WAS TO PROVIDE SHIPS BUT THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER OBLIGATION. FRANCE WAS READY TO ABIDE BY DECISION OF ICAO LEGAL BUREAU AND HAD NOTHING MORE TO SAY.
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